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ABSTRACT

These three booklets provide information about the Danish primary and lower secondary school (the Folkeskole). The first booklet presents a translation of the major portion of the legislative authority for the schools: Act No. 313 of 26th June, 1975, as amended. The Act is organized in chapters covering (1) the conception and aims of the Folkeskole, (2) the organization of educational activities, (3) the organization of the school system, (4) the qualifications of teachers, (5) compulsory education, (6) appropriations for the Folkeskole, and (7) other provisions. The second booklet lists the aims of compulsory and optional subjects taught in primary and lower school up to and including the tenth form. Aims of instruction in several additional optional subjects, such as typing, film, child care, and vocational studies, are listed in the third booklet. (Author/RH)

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ACT ON THE FOLKESKOLE

(The Danish Primary and Lower Secondary School)

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Ministry of Education

Danmark

1979

The following text is a translation from Danish of Act No 313 of 26th June, 1975, on the "Folkeskole" as amended in persuance of Act No 243 of 8th June, 1977, Act No 302 of 8th June, 1978, Act No 219 of 23rd May, 1979 and Act No 257 of 8th June 1979.

The translation text contains the complete Act with the exception of the final section containing details about the dates on which individual sections of the Act were to take effect. The original Act took effect on 1st August 1976; the last of the amendments included in the present publication will be in effect as of 1st August 1980.

Ministry of Education
International Relations Division
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Chapter 1.

The Conception and Aims of the "Folkeskole".

1.1. The "Folkeskole" is the municipal school offering education under the provisions of the present Act.

2.1. The task of the "Folkeskole" is, in cooperation with the parents, to offer possibilities for the pupils to acquire knowledge, skills, working methods and forms of expression which will contribute to each individual pupil's all-round development.

2.2. The "Folkeskole" shall, in all its activities, endeavour to create such possibilities for experience and self-expression which can promote the pupil's urge to learn, to expand his imagination and to develop his capacity for independent evaluation and opinions.

2.3. The "Folkeskole" shall prepare the pupils for active participation in life and decision-making in a democratic society and for sharing responsibility for the solving of common problems. The education activities of the school and its daily life as a whole must therefore be based on intellectual liberty and democracy.

Chapter 2.

Organization of the Educational Activities.

3.1. The "Folkeskole" comprises a one-year pre-school class (børnehaveklasse), a nine-year basic school and a one-year 10th form.

3.2. For children whose development requires special consideration or support, special educational instruction and special educational assistance shall be given. The Minister of Education can lay down regulations in this respect and may in this connection deviate from sections 4, 6, 7, 12 and 14.

3.3. The "Folkeskole" may offer instruction to the pupils outside of their school hours.

3 a.1.
Special educational assistance is offered to children who have not yet started school according to rules laid down by the Minister of Education.

3.a.2. The Minister of Education can approve giving pupils whose development requires extensive consideration or support, 11 years of instruction.

4.1. Instruction in the nine-year basic school shall for all pupils cover the following subjects:

1) Danish, arithmetic/mathematics and physical education in all forms.
2) Christian studies in all forms except the seventh or the eighth forms.
3) Creative art (forming) and music in the first to fifth forms.
4) History in the 3rd - 9th forms, geography, biology in the third- to seventh forms and contemporary studies in the eight and ninth forms.
5) Needlework, woodwork and home economics in the fourth, fifth, and sixth forms respectively.
6) English in the fifth to ninth forms.
7) Physics/chemistry in the seventh to ninth forms.

4.2. Pupils shall be offered instruction in German in the seventh to ninth forms.

4.3. Instruction in Danish, arithmetics/mathematics, physical education, creative art and music may be organized as interdisciplinary instruction in the first and second forms. This also applies to the instruction in history, geography and biology in the third to fifth forms.

4.4. Instruction in creative art, music, needlework, woodwork and home economics may be given in a wider range than stipulated in subsection 1, numbers 3 and 5. The instruction may in this case be organized in such a way that the pupils may choose from among the subjects which are not compulsory according to subsection 1.

4.5. The Minister of Education lays down rules on the objectives of the instruction in each subject or subject combinations and will issue guidelines for the distribution of lessons and guidelines to the curriculum, cf. section 16, subsection 1.

4.6. Pupils, who have been without instruction for a longer period of time or have changed school, may be given supplementary instruction or some other type of pedagogical support. The Minister of Education will lay down rules hereon and may further decide that pupils speaking a foreign language should be offered instruction in their mother tongue.

5.1. The central area of knowledge within the subject Christian Studies is the creed of the National Evangelical Lutheran Church.

5.2. A child may upon request be exempted from participation in the Christian Studies, when the person having the legal custody of the child, in writing to the responsible leader of the school in question, declares personally to take upon him/herself the responsibility of the child's instruction in religion. If the child is 15, exemption will be given only with the child's consent.

6.1. The instruction in the basic school includes the following compulsory topics:

1) Traffic safety.
2) Sexual instruction.
3) Norwegian and Swedish languages.
4) Other religions and philosophies of life.
5) Educational and vocational guidance.
6) Health education and information on the most prevalent stimulants and drugs.

6.2. In each form a fixed weekly lesson must be dedicated to the social tasks of the class teacher and the class.

6.3. The Minister of Education (in Copenhagen, the School Directorate) can lay down rules for educational activities according to subsection 1, and may approve that other topics are included in the list of compulsory topics.

7.1. The instruction given in the tenth form shall for all pupils comprise Danish, English, comtemporary studies and physical education.

7.2. Instruction in arithmetic/mathematics, Christian Studies, physics/chemistry, German and French may be offered the pupils as optional subjects.

7.3. Section 4, subsections 5 and 6, and section 6, subsection 2 also apply to the 10th form.

8.1. The instruction in arithmetic/mathematics, English and German in the eighth to tenth forms and in physics/chemistry in the ninth and tenth forms shall be given in two courses of different contents. The courses are called the basic course and the advanced course.

8.2. In each of the subjects in question the pupils shall be able to choose between the two different courses.

8.3. The Minister of Education can, upon recommendation from the school board, the teacher's council and the education committee, approve that the division into two courses, according to subsection 1, be omitted in the eighth and ninth forms in one or more of the subjects. Such proposals shall be submitted through the Municipal Council - in Copenhagen through the School Directorate with its recommendation.

9.1. In addition to the instruction which is to be offered according to sections 4 and 7,cf. section 8, instruction may be offered to pupils in the eight to tenth forms in the following subjects and topics:

1) Typewriting and photography.
2) Drama and cinematic art.
3) Geography and biology.
4) Creative art, music, needlework, woodwork and home economics.
5) Engine theory and other workshop subjects.
6) Knowledge of educational conditions and labour market conditions including visits to and practical training periods in institutions and industry.

9.2. Instruction in history and Latin may be offered to pupils in the 10th form.

9.3. The school may further offer all pupils in a class in the eighth to tenth forms an opportunity to spend shorter periods of practice in industry or institutions or to attend other types of schools, cf.section 13,subsection 3.

9.4. The Minister of Education (in Copenhagen the School Directorate) can lay down regulations for instruction and practice according to subsections 1-3, and may approve that the pupils are offered instruction in additional practical or artistically-oriented subjects or topics. As far as the pupils attending the tenth form are concerned this approval may also cover instruction within other disciplines.

9.5. The offer concerning instruction according to subsection 1 and 2 must for each particular pupil be of at least similar extent and scope as the offer according to section 4, subsection 2, and section 7, subsection 2.

10.1. In pre-school classes (børnehaveklasser) the children are occupied with play and other developing activities and familiarized with the daily routine of school life.

11.1. In the basic school the pupils are instructed at the form level corresponding to their school age. A pupil may,however, with the approval of its parents,cf. section 46, attend the same form for two years, if the pupil in question has been without instruction for a longer period of time, or if other particular grounds indicate that he will benefit from such measures. A pupil may also, under very special circumstances, skip a form.

11.2. Referral to special educational measures, which are not of temporary nature, are made on the basis of school psychological examinations and after the pupil and the parents in question are consulted.

11.3. Decisions on choice of subjects or courses,cf. section 4, subsection 2, section 7, subsection 2, and sections 8 and 9, and on continued school attendance in the tenth form are to be made by the parents,cf.section 46, after consultation among the parents, the pupil and the school authorities in question.

12.1. The pupils and their parents,cf.section 46, must be regularly informed of the opinion of the school about the pupils' benefit from their school attendance. In the eighth to tenth forms, the evaluation of the level of attainment of the pupils in the subjects covered by subsections 3 to 6 shall be expressed in marks. The same

applies to pupils leaving school after the termination of the seventh form.

12.2. The school authorities issue a leaving certificate for pupils leaving school at the termination of the seventh form, or later. The leaving certificate contains information showing in which educational activities the pupil in question has participated and also showing the most recent marks of proficiency (marks for the year's work, and examination marks, if any, cf. subsections 3 to 6).

12.3. At the termination of the ninth form level the pupils may sit for a leaving examination in each of the following subjects: Danish, arithmetic/mathematics, English, German, and physics/chemistry. This leaving examination is commom to all pupils without regard to choice of course according to section 8. The examinations in the subjects in question are called the leaving examination of the "Folkeskole" (Folkeskolens afgangsprøve).

12.4. At the termination of the tenth form, the pupils may likewise enter for the leaving examination of the "Folkeskole" in each of the subjects mentioned or for an advanced examination, which for the subjects arithmetic/mathematics, English, German, and physics/chemistry presupposes that the pupil in question has participated in and carried through advanced courses in the tenth form. These examinations in the subjects in question are called the advanced leaving examination of the "Folkeskole" (Folkeskolens udvidede afgangsprøve).

12.5. In the subjects Latin and French, the pupils may enter for the leaving examination at the termination of the period of instruction.

12.6. In the subjects needlework, woodwork, home economics and typewriting the pupils may sit for the leaving examination at the termination of the eighth form, or later. The Minister of Education determines whether corresponding rules are to apply as far as other practically oriented subjects, covered by section 9, are concerned.

12.7. The question papers for the written examinations are to be set by the Minister of Education. Other examination assignments are set by the teacher in question or by an ex-

ternal examiner, according to the decision of the Minister.

12.8. Decisions on whether to sit for the examinations rests with the pupil in question after consultation with parents, cf. section 46, and school authorities.

12.9. The Minister of Education can lay down regulations for the examination requirements in each of the subjects, for sitting for examinations, for the holding of examinations, for evaluation and the giving of marks, and for the working out of the leaving certificates.

13.1. The school year begins the 1st of August and comprises normally 200 school days spread over the five first days of the week. The Minister of Education can, however, in particular circumstances, authorize that instruction is given on a Saturday.

13.2. Each year the Minister of Education lays down rules for the number of holidays and other days off, for the date of the beginning of the summer holidays, and also issues guidelines on the holiday plan.

13.3. Teaching in a class may temporarily be discontinued for a number of lessons corresponding, as a maximum, to 10 school days annually in the first to seventh forms, 20 school days in the eighth form and 30 school days in the ninth and tenth forms with a view to the pupils' participation in school camp, field trips or practical training periods etc.

14.1. The weekly number of lessons for the pupils is as follows:

1) in the first and second forms, 15 to 20 lessons,
2) in the third form, 18 to 23 lessons,
3) in the fourth form, 20 to 25 lessons,
4) in the fifth form, 23 to 29 lessons,
5) in the sixth and seventh forms, 24 to 30 lessons, and
6) in the following forms, 24 to 34 lessons.

14.2. The daily number of lessons must not exceed:

1) in the first form, 4 lessons,
2) in the second and third forms, 5 lessons,
3) in the fourth and fifth forms,6 lessons,
4) in the sixth and seventh forms, 7 lessons and
5) in the following forms, 8 lessons.

14.3. In fixing the number of lessons according to subsections 1 and 2, a lesson is a period of 45 minutes' teaching. The educational activities that are voluntary for the pupils according to sections 4,7 and 9 are taken into account. The same is the case for the hours devoted to free class discussion according to section 6, subsection 2. The Minister of Education lays down rules on recesses and meal breaks.

14.4. The rules according to subsections 1 to 3 do not affect educational activities outside regular school hours according to section 3, subsection 3, or supplementary educational activities according to section 4, subsection 6.

14.5. Attendance of pre-school classes is 3 hours daily within the usual school hours of the school in question.

15.1. The number of pupils in the classes of the basic school must not exceed 28 at the beginning of the school year.

15.2. The Minister of Education provides fixed limits for the consumption by the municipalities of teachers' timetable-lessons per pupil at each class level in the basic school department and at the tenth form level. The fixed limits are based on an average number of pupils, not exceeding 22, in the classes of the basic school.

15.3. The number of children attending a pre-school class must not exceed 22, unless the class is divided into two groups, each with a maximum of 14 children.

16.1. For each school, an educational plan must be worked out, which must contain the following stipulations:

1) Organization of the educational actitivites at each form level,cf. sections 4 and 6 to 9, inclusive of the number of lessons in each subject or groups of subjects (plan for distribution of hours).
2) The contents of the educational activities within each subject, groups of subjects and topics, described through central areas of knowledge and skills or illustrated through examples (syllabuses).

3) The combined weekly number of hours at each form level, cf. section 14, subsection 1, and for special educational measures according to section 3, subsection 2, and section 3 a, subsection 2.
4) Holiday plan, cf. section 13.

16.2. The weekly number of hours of compulsory instruction in the eighth and ninth forms cf. section 4, subsection 1 and section 6, subsection 2, must not exceed 24 hours. The Minister of Education can lay down rules for insuring that the subjects mentioned in section 4, subsection 1, numbers 3 and 5 are given a proportionate share of the combined number of hours of instruction in the 1st to 7th forms.

16.3. In the subjects in which the pupils may sit for leaving examinations, cf. section 12, the contents of the instruction must be worked out in such a way that the examination requirements in each subject can be fulfilled.

16.4. The more detailed planning and organization of educational activities, including the decision on teaching forms, methods and material, shall as far as possible take place in cooperation between the teachers and the pupils.

17.1. The necessary teaching materials must be made available to the pupils free of charge. This does, however, not apply to musical instruments and equipment used for educational activities during the pupils' leisure time, according to section 3, subsection 3, and which are taken home by the pupils for their own use.

17.2. At each individual school, cf. section 23, subsection 1, a school library must be established In the school library, the materials owned by the school shall be stored and catalogued according to a common system.

17.3. The Minister of Education lays down general directions for the technical details of the work of the library.

18.1. The Minister of Education can, upon recommendation from the municipal school authorities, depart from the rules in Chapter 2 to the extent that it is necessary for furthering experimental activities and educational innovation.

Chapter 3

The Organization of the School System.

19.1. The municipal authorities are responsible for establishing pre-school classes, and for education in the basic school and the 10th form, including special educational measures for children and young people under 18 years of age, who have their residence or stay in the municipality, and if their parents wish them to be enrolled in the "Folkeskole", cf. section 46. Municipal authorities are responsible for special educational assistance to children who have not yet started school.

19.2. Outside of the municipalities of Copenhagen + Frederiksberg, the counties are responsible for special education for children and youth who live in the county and are under the age of 18 whose development demands special extensive consideration or support in accordance with the approved school plans and plans for development. Correspondingly, the counties are also responsible for the similar assistance of children who have not yet started school..

19.3. The Minister of Education can give approval to the establishment of the above-mentioned special education in the form of boarding schools.

19.4. The Minister of Education prepares guidelines for preparing the plans for development mentioned in section 19.2.

19.5. Pupils who move from the municipality or reach the age of 18 during the school year have a right to continue their schooling in the same municipality for the rest of the school year.

20.1. A municipality may, according to agreement with the State, private schools or other municipal authorities, transfer pupils for schooling at State schools, private schools or other schools under the authority of other municipalities.

20.1a. The counties and the municipalities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg can in a similar way after agreement with the State, a municipality, private schools or another county, refer pupils to special education of the type mentioned

in section 19.2 in state schools, municipal schools, private schools or the schools at another county.

20.2. Arrangements with private schools must be approved by the Minister of Education.

20.3. Transfer of pupils to private schools can take place only with the approval of the parents, cf. section 46.

20.4. Transfer of pupils to schools under the authority of another municipality can take place only with pupils attending the seventh to tenth forms, and pupils who are to be taught in special education classes or special schools, and pupils who live in outlying districts of a municipality and nearer to a school in a neighbouring municipality.

21.1. Pupils who, for a longer period of time for reasons of danger of infection or out of consideration to their health or welfare, cannot attend school must be taught in their homes or at the institution where they are staying.

21.2. It is the responsibility of the municipality to organize instruction, according to subsection 1, at the hospitals and other institutions situated in the municipality in question which receive children in the age range 6 to 18 years, unless the education of the children has been taken care of in some other way. Teaching facilities may also be arranged by the county. The institution in question must provide rooms suitable for instruction.

21.3. The Minister of Education lays down rules for the educational activities according to subsections 1 and 2, and may in this matter decide that the budgets of the municipalities for these educational facilities should be submitted to the county council for approval.

22.1. To each school is allocated a school district which may be larger for the upper than for the lower form levels of the school in question, however, cf.section 23,subsection 1. The Minister of Education may sanction that a school district is common for several schools.

22.2. Teaching according to section 7, subsection 2, and to sections 8 and 9, may be given jointly for pupils from several schools. The county council (in Copenhagen the municipal council) may permit the pre-school classes at a school to

accept children from other school districts.

22.3. Teaching according to section 7, subsection 2, and section 9, may be organized in cooperation with the municipal youth school, in such a way that pupils, if necessary, can be referred to this. The pupils shall, however, if they so wish, be given an opportunity to participate in the instruction given within the "Folkeskole" during the total weekly number of lessons stipulated in the educational plan, cf. section 16, subsection 1.no.3.

22.4. Rearrangement of district borders between existing schools must, as far as possible, not affect children, who have already been enrolled in the school and whose parents wish them to remain in the same school. This does not, however, apply if the class can be transferred as a whole.

22.5. If the municipal authorities have decided to close a school, it must be announced in one or more of the local papers. If at least 50% of the inhabitants of the school district in question, who have franchise in the municipal council elections within 4 weeks after the announcement forward a request in writing for a vote regarding the closing down of the school, the municipal council must act accordingly. Entitled to vote are the inhabitants in the school district who have franchise in municipal council elections. The more detailed rules for such voting are laid down by the Minister of Education. If the result of the vote shows that 60% of those entitled to vote wish the school to be continued, it cannot be closed down until the expiration of the following election period, and even then only if the municipal council again decides to do so. Against this decision the inhabitants cannot demand a new vote.

23.1. Each school must include at least 3 consecutive form levels with pupils from one school district. Pre-school classes are in this respect considered the lowest class level. Schools for the 3 or 4 lowest form levels may be placed under the leadership of another school, unless the number of children exceeds one hundred.

23.2. The schools are divided into classes according to the number of pupils, cf. section 15, subsection 1. A class may if necessary be composed of several form levels within the

first to sixth forms. Additionally, instruction may, with reference to section 4, subsection 4, and section 9, and in athletics, be given jointly for pupils from several form levels.

23.3. When distributing children in the first form in the municipal schools, it must be attempted to keep each class together throughout the following forms in the basic school. Renewed division of classes on the basis of choice of courses or subjects, according to section 11, subsection 3, cannot be made.

23.4. The county council (in Copenhagen the municipal council) may, in special cases, depart from the rules in subsections 1 and 2, 2nd sentence.

24.1. For each municipality, a school plan shall be worked out. It shall contain the following regulations:

1) The names and districts of the schools, cf. section 22. Here it may be decided that small rearrangements of districts may be made in connection with the yearly enrolment.
2) The range of each school with regard to instruction in in the basic school and the tenth form, pre-school classes, special educational measures, according to section 3, subsection 2, and section 3 a, subsection 2, and educational activities in out of school hours according to section 3, subsection 3.
3) Special educational assistance according to section 3 a, subsection 1, for children who have not yet started school.
4) Establishment of special education after agreement with the county as stated in section 20, subsection 1.
5) Transfer for instruction in other schools according to agreement, cf. section 20.
6) Instruction at institutions within the district, cf. section 21, subsection 2.
7) Regulations for permanent posts as civil servants (tjenestemænd) of the "Folkeskole", temporarily engaged teachers (timelærere), and substitute teachers (faste vikarer), and the classification of these posts in so

far as they do not follow the ordinary rules.

24.2. The Minister of Education lays down basic rules for the establishment of posts according to subsection 1, number 7, including the number of civil servants' posts (tjenestemandsstillinger) compared with the total number of positions.

25.1. The municipality is responsible for the transportation of the pupils between the school and the homes of:

1) children, attending pre-school classes, and children in the first to third forms whose distance to school is more than 2 1/2 kms., children in the fourth to ninth forms, more than 6 kms., and pupils attending the 10th form 7 kms., and
2) children, whose distance to school is shorter, if consideration for their safety in traffic makes it particularly necessary.

The Minister of Education lays down rules on these matters.

25.2. The municipality is also responsible for the transportation to and from school of sick and invalid pupils according to rules laid down by the Minister of Education.

25.3. The counties and the municipalities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg must provide transportation to and from school for pupils receiving instruction of the type mentioned in 19.2 in accordance with rules laid down by the Minister of Education.

25.4. The provisions in subsections 1 - 3 are used similarly in connection with transportation between the school and day-care centre or municipally-supported private daycare of pupils placed in these institutions outside of school hours in accordance with the Social Assistance Act.

25.5. The responsibility of the municipalities to take care of the transportation, according to subsection 1, may be fulfilled by referring the pupils to public transportation facilities or by refunding the expenses of their individual transportation.

25.6. The regulations in subsection 1 do not apply to pupils who, according to section 19, subsection 5, or section 36, sub-

section 4, attend another school than their district school.

25.7. The county council may in particular cases depart from the regulations in subsection 1.

26.1. The municipal authorities may with the parents' approval, cf. section 46, arrange lodgings in the school town for pupils in the seventh to tenth forms, if daily transportation between school and home may be considered especially insecure or time-consuming.

26.2. Lodging of pupils may be arranged by referring them to a boarding school, cf.section 20,subsection 1 to 4.

Chapter 4.

Teachers.

27.1. A requirement for teaching in the basic school department and the tenth form of the "Folkeskole" is, that the person in question has completed the education at a Teacher Training College for teachers in the "Folkeskole",approved by the Minister of Education for this purpose. The Minister of Education (in Copenhagen the School Directorate) may in special cases deviate from this regulation.

27.2. At schools, where the teachers appointed to a civil servant's post (tjenestemandsansatte) or temporarily engaged teachers cannot take upon them to teach all the subjects included in the educational plan. Subject teachers having special qualifications may be appointed.

27.3. Pre-school teachers and infant school teachers, who have received training according to relevant legislation, may be in charge of teaching the first to fourth form levels and physical education, needlework and home economics at the other form levels.

28.1. In order to be in charge of daily activities in a pre-school class, the person in question must have completed the training for pre-school or leisure-time teachers or one of the training programmes mentioned in section 27, subsection 3, or some corresponding training approved by the Minister of Education in this respect.

29.1. Personnel with special qualifications may be engaged for taking charge of teaching outside of the pupils' school hours, according to section 3, subsection 3, or other pedagogical fields of activity, which are not covered by section 27 or section 28. Detailed regulations concerning such matters are laid down by the Minister of Education (in Copenhagen the municipal council).

30.1. The Minister shall lay down regulations with regard to the conditions of appointment of temporarily-engaged teachers paid by the hour (timelærere), substitute teachers (vikarer), and subject teachers (faglærere) engaged in teaching at the "Folkeskole" outside Copenhagen.

31.1. A teacher may, upon application, be exempted from teaching the subject Christian studies. If, on account of the exemption, full-time teaching cannot be arranged for him, his salary will be reduced correspondingly, however, without reduction in pension age.

Chapter 5.

Compulsory Education, enrolment in and admission to the "Folkeskole".

32.1. Any child residing in this country is subject to compulsory education according to the rules of sections 33 to 35, unless it is covered by the regulations regarding compulsory education of another legal provision. The same applies to children, who are staying in this country for at least 6 months.

33.1. Compulsory education involves obligation to participate in the instruction given in the "Folkeskole" or in instruction which is comparable to what usually is required in the "Folkeskole".

33.2. Children who participate in the instruction given in a registered private independent school, in an approved upper secondary school (gymnasieskole), in a State school, in a municipal, or county upper secondary school, or who receive home instruction according to the rules in Chapter 4 of Act on Private Independent Schools, are not obliged

to participate in the instruction of the "Folkeskole". This also applies to pupils who, after having finished the seventh form, participate in courses at an approved continuation school, home economics school, a youth boarding school, or pupils who have been admitted to an approved course, the instruction of which corresponds to that of the "Folkeskole". The Minister of Education lays down rules regarding to which extent compulsory education may be considered fulfilled.

33.3. Compulsory education may further, after the seventh form level, be fulfilled through participation in full-time instruction in the municipal youth school in accordance with Act on Leisure-Time Instruction.

33.4. The school board may, at the request of the parents, cf. section 46, permit that a pupil after 7 years' education wholly or partly may fulfill compulsory education through participation in vocational training or occupation, when special grounds indicate that this is to the benefit of the pupil. As far as pupils who are covered by subsection 2 are concerned, the decision will be made by the education committee (in Copenhagen by the school directorate). The permission may be given on condition that the pupil participates in supplementary instruction at the youth school. Such permission is to be reported to the Ministry of Education.

34. . Compulsory education obligation takes effect on the 1st August of the calendar year of the child's seventh birthday and terminates on the 31st July after the child has participated regularly in instruction for 9 years. Compulsory education obligation ceases, however, at the latest on the 31st July of the calendar year of the child's 17th birthday or has completed the basic school or corresponding education, cf. section 33, subsection 2 to 4.

34. . The education committee (in Copenhagen the school directorate) may, upon application from the parents or with their approval, cf. section 46, authorize that a child's education be suspended till one year after the compulsory education

obligation has taken effect, when this is based on the child's development. The approval may be given subject to the condition that the child be enrolled in a kindergarten or a pre-school class.

35. 1. The person having the custody of the child or the person who actually takes care of the child is obliged to cooperate in the fulfilling of compulsory education, and must not put obstacles in the way.

36.1. A child may, upon application from its parents,cf.section 46, be admitted to a school from the beginning of the calendar year of its 5th birthday. The child shall be enrolled in the school situated in the district in which it resides or stays, cf. however subsection 4.

36.2. The education committee (in Copenhagen the school directorate) may resolve that application for enrolment shall be handed in within a certain time-limit. In the years the municipal elections take place, the applications cannot, however, be required to be handed in sooner than 1st March.

36.3. Admission to the "Folkeskole" takes place at the beginning of the school year. In case of illness and under other special circumstances, admittance may take place in the course of the school year.

36.4. The education committee (in Copenhagen the school directorate) may permit that a child be admitted or remains at some other school than that of its school district. Such permission shall as far as possible be granted if the child has brothers and/or sisters who attend the same school.

36.5. The Minister of Education can lay down regulations with regard to admission and permission to leave school for children within the age of compulsory education.

37.1. A child must, on its parents' request,cf.section 46, be admitted to a pre-school (børnehaveklasse) in the calendar year of the child's 6th birthday, or later,cf.section 34, subsection 2.

37.2. If fewer than 18 children are entered, the vacant places shall be offered to children who complete their 5th year of age during the period 1st January to 31st July, and whose parents at the time of entry have requested their

child to be admitted to the pre-school class (børnehaveklassen). If the number of requests for admission of children exceeds the number of available places, the oldest children are admitted first, unless special consideration for some children indicates that this order shall be deviated from.

38.1. A child must, upon application from its parents, cf.section 46, be enrolled in a first form class in the calendar year of the child's 6th birthday, if it is considered able to follow the instruction in the class. If, after enrolment, it becomes apparent that the child is not sufficiently developed, the child may within 3 months be transferred to the pre-school class, provided that its parents wish the child to continue its schooling.

39.1. The teachers will control that the children who are subject to compulsory education and enrolled in the school participate in the instruction given. This also applies to children who have been enrolled in the first form before the beginning of compulsory education, cf.section 38.

39.2. If a child has failed to attend the instruction, the parents shall, cf. section 35, personally or in writing, inform the school of the reason for the child's absence. If the child's absence is caused by illness of more than 2 weeks' duration, the school authorities may request that a medical certificate to this effect is presented.

39.3. The leader of the school in question will, prior to each meeting, inform the school board about all absences,which are not due to illness or other valid reasons.

39.4. If a pupil has been absent from school without valid reasons, the school board must:

1) Require the parents, personally or in writing, to give an explanation of the reasons for the pupil's absence.
2) Instruct the school to seek contact with the parents.
3) Instruct the school to refer the pupil to a school psychological examination.
4) Request the parents to obtain support from the family advisory service or other institutions, or
5) report the matter to the social board.

39.5. If there is any reason to suppose that the pupil's non-attendance to a large degree is due to special conditions in the school, the school board must endeavour to have the conditions changed or make a proposal for transferring the pupil to another school.

Chapter 6.

Appropriations for the "Folkeskole".

40.1. All expenditures to the "Folkeskole" rest with the municipalities in as far as there is no explicit legal authority to establish that expenditures wholly or partly rest with the State, the county or other authorities.

40.2. Expenditures for special education as mentioned in 19.2. rest with the counties, with the exception of an amount per pupil determined by the Minister of Education, which rests with the municipalities.

40.3. Expenditures for education at institutions outside the municipalities of Copenhagen and Frederiksberg, cf. section 21, subsection 2, rest with the counties.

40.4. The Minister of Education may lay down rules determining which municipality and which county have the final responsibility for an expenditure.

41.1. Expenditures for pensions to civil servants employed by the "Folkeskole" and their dependents, including payment of 3 months' full pension to dependents, and obligatory premium are defrayed by the State.

41. 2. The State expenditure, according to subsection 1, to the municipality of Copenhagen will be fixed on the basis of the pension regulations in force outside Copenhagen.

42.1. The municipal authorities may request payment from parents for pupils who participate in educational activities during leisure-time, according to section 3, subsection 3.

43.1. The Minister of Education can decide that the State grants are to be given to research projects and educational development activities.

Chapter 7.

Other Provisions.

44. . The Minister of Education can lay down general rules for measures to further good order at the schools and for supervision of the pupils during school hours.

45. . Regulations concerning the time for confirmation preparation (National Evangelical Lutheran Church) are laid down through negotiation between the education committee and the clergy in the municipality - in Copenhagen through negotiation between the school directorate and the deans. If agreement between the parties cannot be obtained, the decision shall be made by the municipal council after consultation with the parish vestries involved. The decision of the municipal council cannot be brought before a higher administrative authority.

45.2. The time necessary for preparation for confirmation must be safeguarded within the regulations mentioned in section 14, subsection 2.

46.1. The rights of the parents according to sections 11, 12, 19, 20, 26, 33, 34 and 36 to 38 and the rules laid down persuant to the present Act concern the person (s) who has (have) the custody of the pupil in question. Pupils who are not under custody make their own decisions according to section 11,subsections 1 and 3, section 12, subsection 8, section 19, subsection 1, section 20, subsection 3, and section 26, subsection 1.

46.2. Apart from the problem concerning the beginning of schooling and its duration, the school authorities may consider the person who has the pupil in his care as authorized to act on behalf of the person in whose custody the pupils is.

47.1. The Minister of Education lays down rules for the procedure in the construction of school building.

Translation from Danish

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